IN THE CLAIMS:
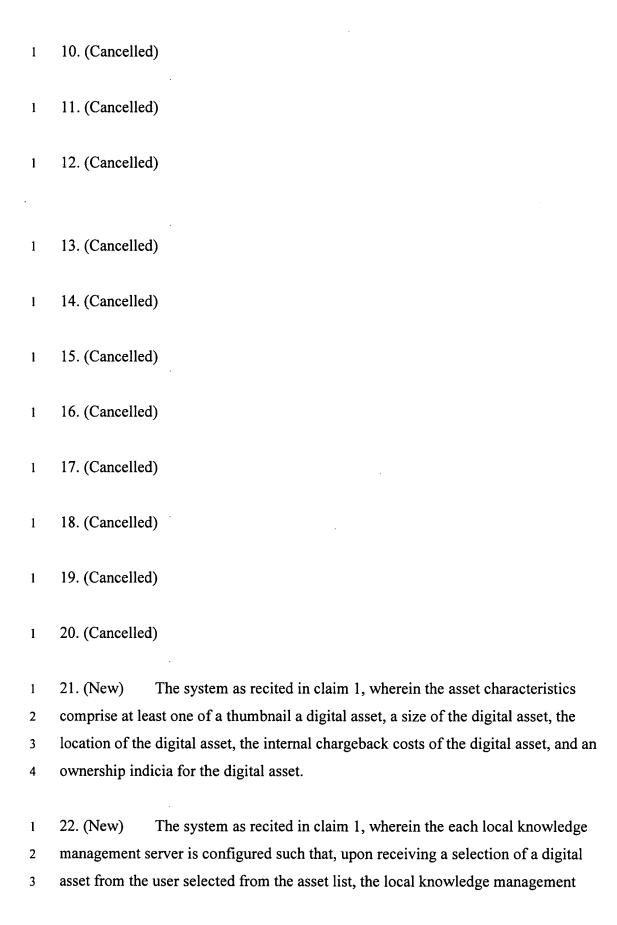
Please cancel claims 2, 3, and 9-20 without prejudice. Please amend claim 1 as follows and add claims 21-34. No claim text is presented beside cancelled claims as provided for by 37 CFR §1.121(c)(4). A complete listing of the claims follows:

1 1. (Currently Amended)   A system for managing digital assets in a distributed
2 data processing system, the system comprising:
3   a network of data processing systems;
4   a plurality of local knowledge management servers connected to the network
5 wherein each of the plurality of local knowledge management servers is connected to
6 and maintains a local digital asset repository;
7   a central knowledge management server; and
8   a central registry of digital assets; wherein
9   each of the plurality of local knowledge management servers sends location
10 and identifying information concerning a digital asset to the central knowledge
11 management server whenever a digital asset is saved to a local digital asset repository
12 corresponding to an appropriate one of the plurality of knowledge management
13 servers; [and]
14   each of the plurality of local knowledge management servers is configured to
15 forward requests for digital assets received from a user to the central knowledge
16 management server;
17   the central knowledge management server stores the location and identifying
18 information concerning the digital asset in the central registry of digital assets[.] ; and
19   the central knowledge management server, in response to a request for an
20 asset from the user, provides an asset list comprising at least one digital asset that has
21 criteria matching criteria specified by the user and wherein at least one of the digital
22 assets in the asset list includes an asset characteristic.

1 2. (Cancelled)

1   3. (Cancelled)

1   4. (Original)   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the central knowledge
2   management server authenticates local knowledge management servers before
3   accepting information from the local knowledge management server for storage on
4   the central registry of digital assets.

1   5. (Original)   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the central knowledge
2   management server performs at least one of providing access to the central registry of
3   digital assets to local knowledge management servers, enables automatic check-
4   in/check-out of digital assets into the central registry of digital assets, provides
5   version control of digital assets, provides a shadow registry for redundant copies of
6   digital assets, and captures statistics of and about the digital assets.

1   6. (Original)   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the central knowledge
2   management server provides at least one of generating reports based on digital asset
3   usage, generating reports based on digital asset type, generating reports based on
4   business unit, generates reports based on geography, and generates reports based on
5   revenues.

1   7. (Original)   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein a one of the plurality of local
2   knowledge management servers retrieves the location of a requested digital asset by
3   querying the central knowledge management server and, once the location of the
4   requested digital asset is determined, retrieves the requested digital asset directly from
5   another one of the plurality of local knowledge management servers on whose
6   corresponding local digital asset repository the requested digital asset is located.

1   8. (Original)   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the digital assets comprise at
2   least one of text, audio, video, photographs, and graphics.

1   9. (Cancelled)

1   10. (Cancelled)

1   11. (Cancelled)

1   12. (Cancelled)

1   13. (Cancelled)

1   14. (Cancelled)

1   15. (Cancelled)

1   16. (Cancelled)

1   17. (Cancelled)

1   18. (Cancelled)

1   19. (Cancelled)

1   20. (Cancelled)

1   21. (New)   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the asset characteristics
2   comprise at least one of a thumbnail a digital asset, a size of the digital asset, the
3   location of the digital asset, the internal chargeback costs of the digital asset, and an
4   ownership indicia for the digital asset.

1   22. (New)   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the each local knowledge
2   management server is configured such that, upon receiving a selection of a digital
3   asset from the user selected from the asset list, the local knowledge management

4   server from which the user request for a digital asset was received, determines the

5   location of the closest peer local knowledge management server that has a copy of the

6   selected digital asset and sends a request for the digital asset to the closest peer local

7   knowledge management server.

1   23. (New)   A method of managing digital assets in a distributed data processing

2   system, the method comprising:

3   receiving, at a central knowledge management server, a request, from a

4   requesting local knowledge management server, for a digital asset matching specified

5   criteria;

6   identifying a list of digital assets that satisfy the specified criteria; and

7   sending the list of digital assets, wherein at least one of the digital assets in the

8   list of digital assets includes an asset characteristic, to the requesting local knowledge

9   management server.

1   24. (New)   The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the list of digital assets

2   includes an identification of the digital asset satisfying the specified criteria that is

3   nearest to the requesting local knowledge management server.

1   25. (New)   The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the step of sending the list

2   of digital assets comprises, responsive to a determination that the requesting user is

3   not authorized to access the digital asset, refraining from sending the digital assets

4   and sending an access denied message to the requesting local knowledge management

5   server and responsive to a determination that the requesting user is authorized for

6   limited access to the digital asset, sending instructions to the requesting local

7   knowledge management server to limit access to the requested digital asset by the

8   requesting user to an access level compliant with the authorization access level

9   granted to the requesting user..

1   26. (New)   The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the asset characteristic

2   comprises at least one of a thumbnail a digital asset, a size of the digital asset, the

3   location of the digital asset, the internal chargeback costs of the digital asset, and an

4   ownership indicia for the digital asset.

1   27. (New)   A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a

2   data processing system for managing digital assets in a distributed data processing

3   system, the computer program product comprising:

4   first instructions for receiving, at a central knowledge management server, a

5   request, from a requesting local knowledge management server, for a digital asset

6   matching specified criteria;

7   second instructions for identifying a list of digital assets that satisfy the

8   specified criteria; and

9   third instructions for sending the list of digital assets, wherein at least one of

10   the digital assets in the list of digital assets includes an asset characteristic, to the

11   requesting local knowledge management server.

1   28. (New)   The computer program product as recited in claim 27, wherein the list

2   of digital assets includes an identification of the digital asset satisfying the specified

3   criteria that is nearest to the requesting local knowledge management server.

1   29. (New)   The computer program product as recited in claim 27, wherein the

2   third instructions comprise, responsive to a determination that the requesting user is

3   not authorized to access the digital asset, refraining from sending the digital assets

4   and sending an access denied message to the requesting local knowledge management

5   server and responsive to a determination that the requesting user is authorized for

6   limited access to the digital asset, sending instructions to the requesting local

7   knowledge management server to limit access to the requested digital asset by the

8   requesting user to an access level compliant with the authorization access level

9   granted to the requesting user.

1   30. (New)   The computer program product as recited in claim 27, wherein the

2   asset characteristic comprises at least one of a thumbnail a digital asset, a size of the

3   digital asset, the location of the digital asset, the internal chargeback costs of the

4   digital asset, and an ownership indicia for the digital asset.

1   31. (New)   A system for managing digital assets in a distributed data processing

2   system, the system comprising:

3   first means for receiving, at a central knowledge management server, a

4   request, from a requesting local knowledge management server, for a digital asset

5   matching specified criteria;

6   second means for identifying a list of digital assets that satisfy the specified

7   criteria; and

8   third means for sending the list of digital assets, wherein at least one of the

9   digital assets in the list of digital assets includes an asset characteristic, to the

10   requesting local knowledge management server.

1   32. (New)   The system as recited in claim 31, wherein the list of digital assets

2   includes an identification of the digital asset satisfying the specified criteria that is

3   nearest to the requesting local knowledge management server.

1   33. (New)   The system as recited in claim 31, wherein the third means comprise,

2   responsive to a determination that the requesting user is not authorized to access the

3   digital asset, refraining from sending the digital assets and sending an access denied

4   message to the requesting local knowledge management server and responsive to a

5   determination that the requesting user is authorized for limited access to the digital

6   asset, sending instructions to the requesting local knowledge management server to

7   limit access to the requested digital asset by the requesting user to an access level

8   compliant with the authorization access level granted to the requesting user..

1   34. (New)   The system as recited in claim 31, wherein the asset characteristic

2   comprises at least one of a thumbnail a digital asset, a size of the digital asset, the

3   location of the digital asset, the internal chargeback costs of the digital asset, and an

4   ownership indicia for the digital asset.